

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Sub F1 1. (Currently Amended) A method of assigning ownership of a peripheral component interconnect (PCI) bus, the method including:
identifying a target requested by a master;
determining if data associated with the target is available;
and

① assigning a first priority level for ownership of the PCI bus to the master if the data is not available and assigning a second priority level for ownership of the PCI bus to the master if the data is available ~~based on availability of the data.~~

2. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising assigning the master a MEDIUM priority level after the master requests a target.

Sub F1 3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein assigning a first priority level for ownership of the PCI bus to the master ~~based on availability of the~~ if the data is not available comprises assigning a LOW priority level to the master if the data is not available.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein assigning a ~~first~~ second priority level for ownership of the PCI bus to the master ~~based on availability of~~ if the data is available

comprises assigning a HIGH priority level to the master if the data is available.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the target uses delayed transactions to complete a read access.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein the target integrates a buffer management scheme.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein the buffer management scheme includes an input/output cache.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein identifying a target includes sending a request signal from the master to an arbiter.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, wherein assigning a priority includes sending a modified request signal to the arbiter.